Sub-divisions of the 'Vela' community.

80. *MR. KAVIYOOR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of divisions of the community which is known by the name "Velas"?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: No sub-divisions have been returned.

Sub-divisions of the Hindu communities.

81. *MR. KAVIYOOR K. K. KOCHUKUNJU: Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any reduction in the present census in the number of sub-divisions of the Hindu communities as compared with the previous census?

RAJYASEVAPRAVINA G. PARAMESWARAN PILLAI: Final figures have not been published.

Buses run on charcoal gas.

82. *MR. G. VELU PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state the number of buses run on charcoal gas in the Transport Department at present?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Sixteen.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI: May I know in which lines these buses are running at present?

MR. E. G. SALTER: The Trivandrum-Nagercoil line.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI: May I know the total number of buses in daily service?

MR. E. G. SALTER: 94.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI: May I know whether it is the idea of the Department to convert all these buses into buses run by charcoal gas?

MR. E. G. SALTER: Yes, Sir, where practicable.

MR. G. VELU PILLAI: May I know the probable time it will take to effect this conversion?

MR. E. G. SALTER: We have scheduled for a conversion of two per week. But owing to the difficulty in obtaining Calcium Carbide for welding, the programme was temporarily disorganised. Provided we get the necessary materials, there is no reason why the schedule should not be maintained.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: May I know why the Trivandrum-Nagercoil line alone should have charcoal gas run buses?

MR. E. G. SALTER: That is purely a matter of convenience Obviously we do not wish to put such vehicles in other routes until al the buses on one route have been converted.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: I remember to have read a report to the effect that such buses cannot run along lines with high gradients. Is that the reason?

MR. E. G. SALTER: No, Sir. The Department claims to be one of the very few in India to have succeeded in overcoming that obstacle.

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